

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use in a telecommunication system for providing access to telecommunication services to subscribers at user terminals ~~(10, 20)~~, each of which being separately connected to at least one access point ~~(30, 60)~~ via high speed modems ~~(12, 22)~~ and a communication network ~~(24)~~, the at least one access point ~~(30, 60)~~ comprising: ~~high speed modems,~~

~~characterised in that~~

first high speed modems ~~(12, 22)~~ associated with the user terminals ~~(10, 20)~~ are ~~provided with~~ having a switching functionality;

second high speed modems ~~(50)~~ at the a station side ~~(34)~~ of the communication network ~~(24)~~ are ~~provided with~~ having a switching functionality; and

a control means ~~(70)~~ is adapted to switch transmission paths of established connections between the user terminals terminal ~~(10, 20)~~ and the ~~at least one~~ access point ~~(30, 60)~~, if necessary, so as to guarantee at least one connection.

2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus in a telecommunication system according to claim 1, **~~characterized in that~~** wherein

an access means ~~(12, 22)~~ is provided with a second modem enabling initial installation with a control means ~~(70)~~ to monitor the installation and establish a connection.

3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus in a telecommunication system according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein

the control means (70) is adapted to retrieve subscriber information in ~~individualise~~ individualize the established connection.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Canceled).

6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) A method for use in a telecommunication system for providing access to telecommunication services to subscribers at user terminals (10, 20), each of which being separately connected to at least one access point (30, 60) via high speed modems (12, 22) and a communication network (24), the at least one access point (30, 60) ~~comprising~~ having high speed modems, ~~comprising~~ characterised by the steps of:

~~transmission of~~ transmitting a signal from an user access interface ~~means~~ (12, 22) including a user terminal identity to a controller ~~control means~~ (70);

searching, by the controller ~~control means~~ (70), for an available connection path for the user access ~~means~~ (12, 22) interface at an access point (40, 50);

creating, by the controller ~~control means~~ (70), a bi-directional high speed data transmission path between the user terminal (10, 20) and the at least one access point (30, 60); and

activating, by the controller ~~control means (70)~~, the transmission path between the user terminal (10, 20) and the at least one access point (30, 60).

8. (Currently Amended) A method in a telecommunication system according to claim 7, further ~~characterized by~~ comprising the steps of:

switching high speed modems (12, 22) associated with the user terminals (10, 20) between two transmission paths;

switching high speed modems (50) at the station side (34) of the communication network (24) between two transmission paths; and

controlling, by the controller ~~a control means (70)~~, the switching of connections between user terminals (10, 20) and the at least one access point (30, 60), so as to guarantee at least one connection.

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus in a telecommunications system according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that,~~ wherein a pool of filters is connected directly to the station side of a first access node.

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus in a telecommunications system according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that,~~ wherein a pool of filters is connected in front of at least one line card connector of a second access node.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus in a telecommunication system according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that,~~ wherein a management system is provided to process retrieved additional user information whereby the established connection can be adapted according to user specifications.

12. (New) Apparatus for use in a communications system for providing access to telecommunication services, comprising:

a user terminal operable by a subscriber for receiving telecommunication services;

a net terminal coupled between the user terminal and an access point associated with a communications network including a first high speed, broadband modem, a second, lower speed, narrowband modem, and first switching circuitry selectively controllable to direct signals to and from the user terminal via the communications network using the first modem or the second modem;

the access point including one or more high speed, broadband modems, one or more lower speed, narrowband modems; and second switching circuitry, different from the first switching circuitry, selectively controllable to support a connection with the user terminal via the communication network using one of the broadband modems or one of the narrowband modems; and

a controller for controlling the first and second switching circuitry to support the connection.

13. (New) The apparatus in claim 12, wherein the high speed, broadband modem is an xDSL modem and the lower speed, narrowband modem supports a PSTN or ISDN narrowband connection.

14. (New) The apparatus in claim 12, wherein the controller is configured to control the first and second switching circuitry to select the second modem and the one

narrowband modem if or when the connection can not be supported as desired between the first modem and the one broadband modem.

15. (New) The apparatus in claim 12, wherein the controller is configured to regulate switching of the first and second switching circuitry based on detection of one or more predetermined conditions.

16. (New) The apparatus in claim 12, wherein the controller is configured to establish the connection using the second modem and the one narrowband modem, and thereafter, to control the first and second switching circuitry to select the first modem and the one broadband modem.

17. (New) The apparatus in claim 12, wherein the data connection and the voice connection are established and supported in parallel with the user terminal using the first and second modems and the one broadband modem and the one narrowband modem.

18. (New) A method for use in a communications system for providing access to telecommunication services to a subscriber associated with a user terminal operable by the subscriber for receiving telecommunication services, comprising:

providing a net terminal coupled between the user terminal and an access point associated with a communications network including a first high speed, broadband modem, a second, lower speed, narrowband modem, and first switching circuitry selectively controllable to direct signals to and from the user terminal via the communications network using the first modem or the second modem,

providing at the access point one or more high speed, broadband modems, one or more lower speed, narrowband modems; and second switching circuitry, different from the first switching circuitry, selectively controllable to support a connection with the user terminal via the communication network using one of the broadband modems or one of the narrowband modems; and

controlling the first and second switching circuitry to support the connection.

19. (New) The method in claim 18, further comprising:

controlling the first and second switching circuitry to select the second modem and the one narrowband modem if or when the connection can not be supported as desired between the first modem and the one broadband modem.

20. (New) The method in claim 18, further comprising:

switching of the first and second switching circuitry based on detection of one or more predetermined conditions.

21. (New) The method in claim 18, further comprising:

establishing the connection using the second modem and the one narrowband modem, and

controlling the first and second switching circuitry to select the first modem and the one broadband modem.

22. (New) The method in claim 18, further comprising:

ROOS

Appl. No. 09/741,741

July 22, 2004

establishing and supporting a data connection and a voice connection in parallel with the user terminal using the first and second modems and the one broadband modem and the one narrowband modem.